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COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

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☞ Those who may be desirous of receiving a regular supply of this work are respectfully requested to make application to their respective newsmen in London. If they should happen to have no newsmen, and should be at a loss to know to whom to apply, a line addressed to *Mr. Richard Bagshaw, Bow Street, Covent Garden*, will be punctually attended to.—The first, second, and third numbers may be obtained by the same mode of application.

PROCEEDINGS IN PARLIAMENT.

Tuesday, February 2, 1802.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ACCOUNTS were presented respecting the disbursements for the army and navy, which accounts will hereafter be given at length in this work.

Mr. Canning rose to call the attention of the House to the subject of a notice, given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, of an intention to bring forward a measure for making provision for the discharge of the arrears of the Civil List, by the sale of certain of his Majesty's colonial possessions. The *object* had his hearty approbation; but, as to the mode of effecting that object he thought it not quite free from objection; and he therefore wished to be informed, whether, when this measure should be brought forward, it would come before the House in such a way as to render the question of sale a matter of separate discussion; if that were not the case, he wished that some other opportunity might be afforded of discussing that question.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer replied, that he had, on a former day, stated, that the sale of certain colonial lands belonging to his Majesty would afford the means of discharging the greater part of the arrears of the Civil List, without imposing additional burthens on the country. He had alluded to the Charib lands, in the Island of St. Vincent; but he did not think it his duty to bring before Parliament any distinct question as to the sale of those lands.

Mr. Canning said, that, in repeating his perfect concurrence as to the discharge of the arrears, he must, nevertheless, say, that he should have serious objections to the lands being sold without any restrictions. He wished, therefore, to know if the proposed sale was to be confined to St. Vincent's, or whether it was to extend to the uncleared lands in the other colonies also.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer replied, that, while he mentioned the Charib lands, in particular, he did not restrict himself from applying the same proposed measure to the private property of his Majesty in the other colonies.

Mr. Jones said, that he wished to know whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer intended to bring forward any specific proposition relative to the *Income Tax*, as he himself had, on a former day, given notice, that he should, after the recess, bring forward such a proposition.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer wished it to be understood, that he held out no promise, but he appealed to the candour of the gentleman, whether it was proper to urge a discussion, 'till it was known what were the intentions of government on the subject.

Mr. Jones said he should desist for the present; but, that, if ministers did not bring the matter forward, he should.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Wednesday, February 3.

Lord Holland rose, and called their lordships' attention to the circumstance of the treaties which were in negociation between this country and the courts of Sweden and Denmark. These involved considerations of the highest political importance, and he thought it proper that the House should receive some information respecting them, the more especially, as the negociation with Sweden included a question in which the two other powers were not implicated. He therefore wished to learn, whether the treaties in question were yet arrived, and whether it was proposed, shortly, to make any communication to Parliament upon the subject.

Lord Pelham observed, as to the obvious impropriety of directly answering such questions in the way they were put by his lordship; the practice, at least, was unparliamentary and irregular; and he must protest against that mode of putting such questions to ministers, on the part of individual Peers, on subjects which were not before Parliament, or in a regular train for coming

under its discussion. With respect to the noble lord's questions, in the present instance, his lordship proceeded to state, that in the way he understood them, he could, in the present circumstances, only state, that the treaties alluded to were not yet arrived, which was to be accounted for, on various grounds, such as the circumstances of the times, the state of the seasons, &c. but, that, when these treaties should be received, he had no doubt of his having it in command from his Majesty, in due time, to lay them before the House.

Lord Holland, in reply, observed, that he would agree that the practice of putting such questions as he had done, to any individual peer, was neither parliamentary nor regular. He did it, however, in the present instance, merely to save the House that trouble which must attend the regular mode of couching them in the shape of a motion. With respect to his motives for putting the questions he had done, he could assure the House, it was not in the least, as the noble lord seemed to him to imagine, to embarrass his Majesty's ministers; but on this head he could not help adverting to the circumstance that the discussion of the convention with Russia had been, in one instance, put off for a fortnight on the suggestion of ministers, and in the avowed hope that within that interval the ratification of that treaty, on the parts of Denmark and Sweden would arrive. On that occasion he had voted for the address, on the principle of confidence, which certainly he was not in the habits of doing; and he must observe, that as things had since turned out, such a vote was rather immaturely given.

The House adjourned 'till Friday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Lord Glenbervie made two motions for the House to go into a committee, first on the Southern Whale Fishery, and second on the law respecting fish imported at Billingsgate.

A resolution was passed for going into a committee of ways and means on Friday.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD HAWKESBURY.

Pall-Mall, 5th Feb. 1802.

My Lord,

In the course of those letters, which I did myself the honor to address to your lordship, soon after the signing of the preliminary [illegible] I ventured to predict, that the relative situation of the two countries, in future, would be, a "state of mistrust, "anxiety, expense, and danger, on our "part; and of intrigues, insults, threats "and hostile preparations, on the part of "France." Have not subsequent events already, even before the concluding of the definitive treaty, fully verified my prediction? Has not the insulting and menacing armament, sent out from those ports, which we so lately blockaded, already filled this nation with mistrust and alarm? Has it not already created a monstrous expense, and a danger greater than any that our colonies were ever before exposed to?

It has been stated, in the public prints that your lordship has declared, from your seat in Parliament, *that the French fleet and army did not leave Europe, 'till information of such intended expedition had been communicated to his Majesty's ministers.* That this statement is correct, there can be no doubt; and, give me leave, then, to ask you, my lord, why the expedition was permitted to proceed? You are, by the True Briton, and other public prints, said to have declared, that you had full confidence in the honourable views of the French government, and that you even regarded the success of the expedition as an event necessary to the preservation of the peace and prosperity of our own West India possessions. I doubt not the sincerity of your lordship's declarations; but, if such were your real sentiments, I may surely be permitted to enquire, why it was thought necessary to send a British fleet to the West Indies, at the moment when we might have expected to see the ships dismantled; and to collect an army in Jamaica, more numerous than any that ever before had been maintained in that island, even in time of war? Either you and your colleagues suspect the French of some hostile intention, or you do not: if the former, why did you suffer the armament to go out? if the latter, why is the nation loaded with the expense of a West-India fleet and army? Did you, from the first, suspect the French of some hostile intention, and, nevertheless, did you want the resolution to prevent their sailing out? Or, were you not, 'till after the sailing of the expedition, in possession of those circumstances, which have since excited your suspicions? For the honour of his Majesty's government, for the honour of our country, my lord, I hope, that the latter is the ground on which the historian will have to account for your conduct. Yet, how is it possible that, with free access to all the sources of information, you should not have been a

quainted with facts that came to the knowledge of an obscure individual like me? How is it possible, that you should not have known, that Toussaint was in the interest, and at the absolute command, of Buonaparté; that the French ambassador in America had given public notice of the acknowledged dependance of the colonial commanders on the government of the mother country; that a man sent out from France, and appointed by the Consul to be governor of the Spanish part of the island, had been installed in that office by Toussaint himself; that the son of Toussaint was sent to France by his father only eighteen months ago, and that he made one in the expedition; that Toussaint held the blacks of the island in a state of perfect subjection; that there wanted, in short, neither fleet nor army to reduce the colony to obedience; and, of course, that the sending out of such an armament must have been dictated by some view hostile to England? How is it possible, my lord, that his Majesty's minister should not have been acquainted with these facts; and, if they were acquainted with them, how came they to permit so formidable an armament to put to sea, from those very ports, which our fleets yet held in a state of blockade?

Leaving your advocates to reply to these questions, my lord, I shall now proceed to examine into the validity of the defence, which those advocates have set up, of this unaccountable measure. They tell this credulous nation, that our colonies were in imminent danger from the contagious example of the negroes of St. Domingo; and, that the French expedition, by destroying the negro government, or anarchy, will effectually remove this danger. Such a plea, my lord, was never urged but upon a presumption of the ignorance of those, who were to decide on the question. Facts have already furnished a strong presumptive proof, that neither fleet nor army was necessary to reduce the negroes to their former state of subjection; and the event will not fail to render this proof positive. But, my lord, if the French expedition be now necessary to secure the internal tranquillity of our own colonies, how comes it, that, for the last five years, this tranquillity has remained undisturbed, without the aid of any such expedition? Admit, however, that the crisis is at last arrived, when French interference is wanted to preserve the quiet of our islands; we must again ask, how this benign object of Buonaparté can be reconciled with the great addition, which is now making to our fleet and army in that quarter of the world? Astonishing, indeed, would be the conduct of his Majesty's ministers, were they to augment our forces in the West-Indies, at the very moment when they believed, that all danger was about to be removed by an enemy, now become our friend! No, no, my lord, it is trifling with, it is insulting, the understanding and feelings of the nation, to affect to attribute our additional force to any other cause, than the *additional danger*, which you and your colleagues, have, when it is too late, perceived to arise from the sailing of the French expedition.

This expedition has, however, sailed; and, my lord, if you have time to listen to political speculations, I will tell you what I think to be its real objects. The first is, to form a deposit of European troops in St. Domingo, to enrol, in the several battalions, a certain portion of Toussaint's disciplined blacks, and to form an army of 50 or 60 thousand men, well inured to the climate. The fleet will, in the mean time, be stationed at the Cape, at Port au Prince, and at the Havannah. No operation, of any importance, will be undertaken, 'till six months after the signature of the definitive treaty; that is, 'till Buonaparté (or his successor, or successors) shall have got in his or their safe possession all the colonies which we have agreed to surrender to them. This surrender once accomplished, the army of St. Domingo will begin to receive orders to move, and the very first step (it is but a step) they will take, will be to the island of Cuba; the next will be to Jamaica, which will cost them about six hours sail. If we have a fleet to watch their motions, they will not move from Cuba; but a strong detachment, encamped on the southern side of that island, will require an English fleet constantly cruizing on the north side of Jamaica, where we have, by the by, not a single port to shelter them, in case of foul weather, or other accidents. The fertile, the opulent, the loyal, island of Jamaica is, as I observed in my Letters to Mr. Addington, one of the most precious jewels in the British diadem; and, be you assured, my lord, that the nation, which is bent on our ruin, will never be at heart's ease, 'till she has plucked this jewel away. If she finds our precautions sufficient to prevent the accomplishment of this darling object, she will, as I before observed, keep a detachment of her army in Cuba, in constant readiness for the enterprize, to prevent the successful execution of which

we must always keep a formidable fleet to watch her motions. In the mean-while she will send detachments to take possession of Louisiana, of her newly acquired territory in the neighbourhood of the Amazons, and of the colonies, which we shall surrender to her, as well in the islands, as on the continent of South America. She will make wild work with the continental dominions of Spain and Portugal. Her project is to annihilate the latter power, to give its European territory to Spain, and to take the Brazils to herself; but, these are parts of an after game. Her first object is to take Jamaica, or to compel us to keep up our West-India war establishment, either of which, as she well knows, will effect our destruction.

"But," say the advocates of the permission, which ministers have given for the sailing of this fleet, "where will France find "the money for supporting this immense "force?" Where, my lord, did she find the means of fitting out the expedition? On *the Royal Exchange of London* she found them, and that in such abundance too as would, were it necessary, encourage her again to apply to the same prolific source. She will, however, need no such application. In exchange for her colonial produce, she will receive, from the United States of America a superabundance of every thing she will want for the repairing of her fleet, and for the victualling of her fleet and her army. The roads, the harbours, the dock-yards, the fleets, and the treasures, of Holland and Spain she has at her command, nay, in her actual and absolute possession. With these advantages, together with the command of the Mississippi, and the invaluable possession of New Orleans, her expenses will be a mere trifle, compared with the enormous cost of maintaining a British fleet and army in the ports and on the land of Jamaica, every six pence of which cost must be drained from the United Kingdom.

Upon casting my eye over the distribution of the British naval force, as it stood on the 1st day of this month, I perceive, that, in the West-Indies, and on the passage thither, we have 24 ships of the line, 1 fifty, 35 frigates, and 46 smaller ships of war. The account of the distribution of the army, at the same period, tells me, that we have, in that quarter of the world, 25 battalions of infantry, (containing upon an average 800 men each) and 1 battalion of cavalry. This is no trifling force, my lord, for a *peace establishment*. Yet, it must be greater, or Jamaica is no longer ours. There are men, my lord, who can contemplate even this alternative with calmness and indifference, consoling themselves with the reflection, that, if we have no sugar of our growth, we can purchase enough from the French; but, if the ignorance of such men were not equal to their baseness, they would enquire whence the money is to come, with which this purchase is to be made. It is, my lord, by the prevalence of the opinions of such men as the Rev. Dr. Beeke (who, I hope, has been caressed for his piety rather than his politics) that we have been led to the brink of that destruction, from which nothing short of a radical and speedy change of system can possibly save us. We may hug ourselves in the contemplation of our internal resources, our capital, our improvements, and our industry; but, without colonies, without great and flourishing colonies, this kingdom cannot retain its weight in the scale of nations, and must dwindle into insignificance and dependance.

It was my intention to close this letter with some remarks on the cession of Louisiana, which France has extorted from Spain; but these will, perhaps, be addressed with more propriety to the people of the United States of America, whom I long ago warned of this danger, whom, indeed, I positively assured, that France would take possession of Louisiana, as soon as peace was made with England, unless they, the Americans, immediately took possession of it themselves, which they had then just cause for doing, and which I strongly urged them to do. The French minister contradicted my statements, and, unfortunately for the Americans, they believed him.

I cannot let slip this opportunity of reminding your lordship of the rapid progress which, under the administration of you and your colleagues, the people are making in insolence, violence, and ferocity. The foolish illuminations for the peace with the regicide Republic was the signal for the commencement of the reign of the mob. I told your lordship, at the time, that the demolition of my house would not be the last conspicuous act of the sovereign people; they have since given a more awful proof of their peaceable and philanthropic disposition, and I sincerely pray, that the mirth of those statesmen, who regarded my injuries as an excellent joke, may not, at a period less distant than they imagine, be changed into the voice of lamentation.

I am,
My Lord, your Lordship's most humble
and most obedient servant,
Wm. Cobbett.

STATE PAPERS.

Notes presented to the French Government by M. Kalitscheff, the Russian Minister at Paris.

The undersigned hastens to communicate to Citizen Talleyrand the commands he has just received from his Court.

His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, relying upon the Chief Consul's love of justice, by which he has obtained so great and so merited a reputation, entertains the hope, that he will fulfil the engagements into which he had entered with the late Emperor, not to insist upon the hard conditions to which the King of Naples had been obliged to submit. The undersigned thinks it his duty to remind Citizen Talleyrand, that the admission of the five Articles, presented to the French government by way of answer to its pressing representations for opening a negotiation with Russia, was the only motive for sending the undersigned to Paris. The new instructions directed him to insist, that the said five articles, which had been agreed upon as the basis of the negotiation, should receive their speedy execution.

By these articles the two powers agreed that the King of the Two Sicilies, and the King of Sardinia, should be again put in possession of the respective states which they possessed before the irruption of the French troops into Italy. Citizen Talleyrand, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been authorized repeatedly to give the assurance, that the five articles were agreed to, and that they would be carried into effect.

As, however, it has been seen that by force of arms the King of Naples has been compelled to agree to other terms: and as, in defiance of the most solemn promises, to conclude a definitive peace with the King of Sardinia, by which he was again to be established in his dominions, it is evident that the latter is excluded from his territories, there is every reason to suspect and believe, that unforeseen circumstances have changed the intentions of the French government, and inspired it with other views and intentions repugnant to the above articles and measures which had been taken with his Majesty.

The undersigned is commanded to represent to Citizen Talleyrand, that without positive certainty of the five articles alluded to being carried into effect, and which were acceded to by the French government as preliminaries, there can be no restoration of harmony between the two countries; and he therefore declares, that neither the armistice of Foligno, nor the conditions which in the first instance were presented to the Marquis de Gallo, and which afterwards, on the refusal of the latter to agree to them, were transmitted to General Murat, to be signed by the Chevalier Micheroux, can ever be acknowledged by the Emperor, and that they must ever be considered as directly inconsistent with the promises made by the Chief Consul.

This is the substance of the commands which the undersigned has received, and which he has been directed to communicate to the French government. He must also add, that the views which the Chief Consul announced, and his moderation, which was held out as directed to promote a general peace, were the only grounds on which all Europe entertained the hope that the moment of that peace was at no great distance; that it would be permitted to look forward to the future with tranquillity; and that the system of robbery taken up by the directory no longer existed. These were the only reasons that induced his Majesty the Emperor to send a Plenipotentiary to Paris, and through whom it was expected that the relations of amity with the French government would be restored.

The undersigned flattered himself, that the Chief Consul, in his wisdom, would consider that his fame is concerned in fulfilling the promises he had made, and the hopes he had raised, as it will depend upon him, by the re-establishment of a general peace, to give repose to all Europe. He therefore requests Citizen Talleyrand to make known the contents of this note to the Chief Consul, and, as soon as possible, to communicate to the undersigned the resolution which the French government shall adopt.

The undersigned takes this opportunity, &c.

(Signed) *Kalitscheff.*

As no Answer was given to this Note, Count Kalitscheff, on the 8th of May, presented the following.

The undersigned reminds Citizen Talleyrand, that he has yet to receive an answer respecting the objects on which he had the honour, by the command of the Emperor, his master, to address him; and therefore he begs him to notify to the undersigned, whether the French government, agreeably to the admission of the five preliminary articles, intends to keep its promise concerning the integrity of the kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and the re-establishment of the King of Sardinia in his dominions, as they were previous to the arrival of the French troops in Italy.

The undersigned considers it unnecessary to make any farther observations respecting this affair, which has already been sufficiently discussed, and he hopes that Citizen Talleyrand will lay before the Chief Consul the contents of the present note, and that he will communicate to him his resolutions agreeably thereto.

(Signed) *Kalitscheff.*

[With regard to these articles which are not enumerated in the above notes, it is believed that the first contained a positive assurance that the Pope should be maintained in his temporal dominion; the second, that the Grand Duke of Tuscany should be indemnified in Italy, and not in Germany; and the third, that the arrangements in consequence of the treaty of Luneville should be made with the concurrence of Russia.]

Convention of St. Petersburgh, between England and Russia, concluded June 5th (17th), 1801.

In the name of the most holy and undivided Trinity—The mutual desire of his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias and of his Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland, being not only come to an understanding between themselves with respect to the differences which have lately interrupted the good understanding and friendly relations which subsisted between the two states; but also to prevent, by frank and precise explanations upon the navigation of their respective subjects, the renewal of similar altercations and troubles which might be the consequence of them; and the object of the solicitude of their said Majesties being to settle, as soon as can be done, an equitable arrangement of those differences, and an invariable determination of their principles upon the rights of neutrality, in their application to their respective monarchies, in order to unite more closely the ties of friendship and good intercourse, of which they acknowledge the utility and the benefits, have named and chosen for their Plenipotentiaries, viz. His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, the Sieur Niquita, Count de Panen, his Counsellor, &c. and his Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland, Alleyn, Baron St. Helens, Privy Counsellor, &c. who, after having communicated their full powers, and found them in good and due form, have agreed upon the following points and articles.

Art. I. There shall be hereafter between his Imperial Majesty of all the Russias and his Britannic Majesty, their subjects, the states and countries under their domination, good and unalterable friendship and understanding, and all the political, commercial, and other relations, of common utility between the respective subjects, shall subsist as formerly, without their being disturbed or troubled in any manner whatever.

II. His Majesty the Emperor and his Britannic Majesty declare, that they will take the most especial care of the execution of the prohibitions against the trade of contraband of their subjects with the enemies of each of the high contracting parties.

III. His Imperial Majesty of all the Russias and his Britannic Majesty having resolved to place under a sufficient safeguard the freedom of commerce and navigation of their subjects, in case one of them shall be at war, whilst the other shall be neuter, have agreed:—

1. That the ships of the neutral power shall navigate freely to the ports, and upon the coasts of the nations at war.

2. That the effects embarked on board neutral ships shall be free, with the exception of contraband of war, and of enemy's property; and it is agreed not to comprize in the number of the latter, the merchandize of the produce, growth, or manufacture of the countries at war, which should have been acquired by the subjects of the neutral power, and should be transported for their account, which merchandize cannot be accepted in any case from the freedom granted to the flag of the said power.

3. That in order to avoid all equivocation and misunderstanding of what ought to be qualified as contraband of war, his Imperial Majesty of all the Russias and his Britannic Majesty declare, conformably to the 11th Article of the treaty of Commerce concluded between the two crowns on the 10th (21st) February, 1797, that they acknowledge as such only the following objects, viz.—Cannons, mortars, fire-arms, pistols, bombs, grenades, balls, bullets, fire-locks, flints, matches, powder, salt-petre, sulphur, helmets, pikes, swords, sword-belts, saddles and bridles: excepting, however, the quantity of the said articles which may be necessary for the defence of the ship and of those who compose the crew; and all other articles whatever not enumerated here shall not be reputed warlike and naval ammunition, nor be subject to confiscation, and of course shall pass freely, without being subjected to the smallest difficulty, unless they be considered enemy's property in the above settled sense. It is also agreed that that which is stipulated in the present article shall not be to the prejudice of the particular stipulations of one or the other crown with other powers, by which objects of a similar kind should be reserved, prohibited, or permitted.

4. That in order to determine what characterizes a blockaded port, that determination is given only to that where there is, by the disposition of the power which attacks it with ships stationary, or sufficiently near, an evident danger in entering.

5. That the ships of the neutral power shall not be stopped but upon just causes and evident facts: that they be tried without delay, and that the proceeding be always uniform, prompt, and legal.

In order the better to ensure the respect due to these stipulations, dictated by the sincere desire of conciliating all interests, and to give a new proof of their loyalty and love of justice, the high contracting parties enter here into the most formal engagement to renew the severest prohibitions to their Captains, whether of ships of war or merchantmen, to take, keep, or conceal on board their ships any of the objects which, in the terms of the present Convention, may be reputed contraband, and respectively to take care of the execution of the orders which they shall have published in their Admiralties, and wherever it shall be necessary.

IV. The two high contracting parties, wishing to prevent all subject of dissension in future by limiting the right of search of merchant ships going under convoy to the sole causes in which the Belligerent Powers may experience a real prejudice by the abuse of the neutral flag, have agreed,

1. That the right of searching merchant ships belonging to the subjects of one of the contracting powers, and navigating under convoy of a ship of war of the said powers, shall only be exercised by ships of war of the Belligerent Party, and shall never extend to the fitters out of privateers, or other vessels, which do not belong to the Imperial or Royal fleet of their Majesties, but which their subjects shall have fitted out for war.

2. That the proprietors of all merchant ships belonging to the subjects of one of the contracting sovereigns, which shall be destined to sail under convoy of a ship of war, shall be required, before they receive their sailing orders, to produce to the commander of the convoy their passports and certificates, or sea-letters, in the form annexed to the present treaty.

3. That when such ship of war, and every merchant ship under convoy, shall be met with by a ship or ships of war of the other contracting party, who shall then be in a state of war, in order to avoid all disorder they shall keep out of cannon shot, unless the situation of the sea, or the place of meeting, render a nearer approach necessary; and the commander of the ship of the Belligerent Power shall send a sloop on board the convoy, where they shall proceed reciprocally to the verification of the papers and certificates that are to prove on one part, that the ship of war is authorized to take under its escort such or such merchant ships of its nation, laden with such a cargo, and for such a port: on the other part, that the ship of war of the Belligerent Party belongs to the Imperial or Royal fleet of their Majesties.

4. This verification made, there shall be no pretence for any search, if the papers are found in due form, and if there exists no good motive for suspicion. In the contrary case, the captain of the neutral ship of war (being duly required thereto by the captain of the ship of war or ships of war of the Belligerent Power) is to bring to, and detain his convoy during the time necessary for the search of the ships which compose it, and he shall have the faculty of naming and delegating one or more officers to assist at the search of the said ships, which shall be done in his presence on board each merchant ship conjointly with one or more officers selected by the captain of the ship of the Belligerent Party.

5. If it happen that the captain of the ship or ships of war of the power of war, having examined the papers found on board, and having interrogated the master and crew of the ship, shall see just and sufficient reason to detain the merchant ship in order to proceed to an ulterior search, he shall notify that intention to the captain of the convoy, who shall have the power to order an officer to remain on board the ship thus detained, and to assist at the examination of the cause of her detention. The merchant ship shall be carried immediately to the nearest and most convenient port belonging to the Belligerent Power, and the ulterior search shall be carried on with all possible diligence.

V. It is also agreed, that if any merchant ship thus convoyed should be detained without just and sufficient

cause, the commander of the ship or ships of war of the Belligerent Power shall not only be bound to make to the owners of the ship and of the cargo a full and perfect compensation for all the losses, expenses, damages, and costs, occasioned by such detention, but shall further be liable to an ulterior punishment for every act of violence or other fault which he may have committed, according as the nature of the case may require. On the other hand, no ship of war with a convoy shall be permitted, under any pretext whatsoever, to resist by force the detention of a merchant ship or ships by the ship or ships of war of the Belligerent Power; an obligation to which the commander of a ship of war with convoy is not bound to observe towards privateers and their fitters out.

VI. The high contracting powers shall give precise and efficacious orders that the sentences upon prizes made at sea shall be conformable with the rules of the most exact justice and equity; that they shall be given by judges above suspicion, and who shall not be interested in the matter. The government of the respective states shall take care that the said sentences shall be promptly and duly executed, according to the forms prescribed. In case of the unfounded detention, or other contravention of the regulations stipulated by the present treaty, the owners of such a ship and cargo shall be allowed damages proportioned to the loss occasioned by such detention. The rules to observe for these damages, and for the case of unfounded detention, as also the principles to follow for the purpose of accelerating the process, shall be the matter of additional articles, which the contracting parties agree to settle between them, and which shall have the same force and validity as if they were inserted in the present act. For this effect, their Imperial and Britannic Majesties mutually engaged to put their hand to the salutary work, which may serve for the completion of these stipulations, and to communicate to each other without delay the views which may be suggested to them by their equal solicitude to prevent the least grounds for dispute in future.

VII. To obviate all the inconveniences which may arise from the bad faith of those who avail themselves of the flag of a nation without belonging to it, it is agreed to establish for an inviolable rule, that any vessel whatever to be considered as the property of the country the flag of which it carries, must have on board the captain of the ship, and one half of the crew of the people of that country, and the papers and passports in due and perfect form; but every vessel which shall not observe this rule, and which shall infringe the ordinances published on that head, shall lose all rights to the protection of the contracting powers.

VIII. The principles and measures adopted by the present act shall be alike applicable to all the maritime wars in which one of the two powers may be engaged whilst the other remains neutral. These stipulations shall in consequence be regarded as permanent, and shall serve for a constant rule to the contracting powers in matters of commerce and navigation.

IX. His Majesty the King of Denmark, and his Majesty the King of Sweden, shall be immediately invited by his Imperial Majesty, in the name of the two contracting parties, to accede to the present convention, and at the same time to renew and confirm their respective treaties of commerce with his Britannic Majesty; and his said Majesty engages, by acts which shall have established that agreement, to render and to restore to each of these powers, all the prizes that have been taken from them, as well as the territories and countries under their domination, which have been conquered by the arms of his Britannic Majesty since the rupture, in the state in which those possessions were found at the period at which the troops of his Britannic Majesty entered them. The orders of his said Majesty for the restitution of those prizes and conquests shall be immediately expedited after the exchange of the ratifications of the acts by which Sweden and Denmark shall accede to the present treaty.

X. The present Convention shall be ratified by the two contracting parties, and the ratifications exchanged at St. Petersburgh in the space of two months at furthest, from the day of the signature. In faith of which the respective Plenipotentiaries have caused to be made two copies perfectly similar, signed with their hands, and have sealed with their arms.

Done at St. Petersburgh, the 5th (17th) of June, 1801.

(L. S.) *N. Count de Panen.*
(L. S.) *St. Helens.*

Formula of the Passports and Sea Letters which ought to be delivered in the respective Admiralties of the States of the two High Contracting Parties to the Ships of War, and Merchant Vessels, which shall sail from them, conformable to Article IV. *of the present Treaty.*

Be it known, that we have given leave and permission to N—, of the city or place of N—, master or conductor of the ship N—, belonging to N—, of the port of N—, of — tons or thereabouts, now lying in the port or harbour of N—, to sail from thence to N—, laden with N—, on account of N—, after the said ship shall have been visited before its departure in the usual manner by the officers appointed for that purpose, and the said N—, or such other as shall be vested with powers to replace him, shall be obliged to produce, in every port or harbour which he shall enter with the said vessel, to the officers of the place, the present license, and to carry the flag of N— during his voyage.

In faith of which, &c.

Copy of the 1*st separate Article of the Convention with the Court of London, signed the* 9*th (*17*th) of June,* 1801.

The pure and magnanimous intentions of his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias having already induced him to restore the vessels and goods of British subjects, which had been sequestered in Russia, his said Majesty confirms that disposition in its whole extent; and his Britannic Majesty engages also to give immediately orders for taking off all sequestration laid upon the Russian, Danish, and Swedish properties, detained in English ports, and to prove still more his sincere desire to terminate amicably the differences which have arisen between Great-Britain and the northern courts; and in order that no new incident may throw obstacles in the way of this salutary work, his Britannic Majesty binds himself to give orders to the commanders of his forces by land and sea, that the armistice now subsisting with the court of Denmark and Sweden shall be prolonged for a term of three months from the date of this day; and his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, guided by the same motives, undertakes, in the name of his allies, to have this armistice maintained during the said term.

This separate article, &c.

In faith of which, &c.

Copy of the 2d separate Article of the Convention with the Court of London, signed at St. Petersburgh, the 5th (17th) of June, 1801.

The differences and misunderstandings which subsisted between his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias and his Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland being thus terminated, and the precautions taken by the present convention not giving further room to fear that they may be able to disturb in future the harmony and good understanding which the two high contracting parties have at heart to consolidate, their said Majesties confirm anew, by the present convention, the treaty of commerce of the 10th (Feb. 21, 1797), of which all the stipulations are here repeated, to be maintained in their whole extent.

This separate article, &c.

In faith of which, &c.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Paris, January 31.—A letter written from Malta, by a French officer, who arrived from Alexandria, gives the following details:

"Some days after the departure of General Menou from Alexandria, four beys, viz. Osman-Bey-el-Bardissy, Osman-Bey-el-Ascar, Mourad-Bey, the little, and it is not known whether the fourth was Osman-Bey-el-Fambouzy or Ibrahim-Bey, all arrived from Cairo, on a visit to the Captain Pacha, who was encamped about two leagues from Alexandria, on the road to Aboukir. The next day, they expressed their desire of paying a visit to the English General, Oakes, commandant of Alexandria. The Captain Pacha said he would gladly bear them company, and ordered a felucca to be prepared, to go by the Lake Mareotis, as far as Pompey's Pillar, where they were to take horse. Being all on board the felucca, they had arrived within a league of Alexandria, when a Tartar appeared on the shore, and with a speaking-trumpet informed the Captain Pacha that he had just arrived with dispatches from Constantinople, desiring him at the same time to land immediately and read them. The Captain made excuses to the Beys, and told them they could proceed on their journey, and he would rejoin them on horseback at Alexandria. The Beys continued their route, and were only a small distance from Pompey's Pillar, when six large canoes, filled with Turkish soldiers, and three gun-boats of the same nation, came and assailed the felucca with cannon shot and musquetry, and attempted to board. The Beys, with the small number of Mamelukes that were with them, defended themselves like lions; but at length overpowered by numbers, they were massacred with the exception of Mourad-Bey, the little, who was left for dead, and covered with wounds. The English General, hearing the report of cannon at Alexandria, ordered his troops under arms, and learning what had passed, commanded the Captain-Pacha to appear before him. The latter set off, and having arrived at some distance from the tent of the English General, who was encamped on the place of Alexandria, he was arrested and disarmed by the Swiss grenadiers of the regiment of Roll, who received orders to this effect from General Oakes. The General reproached the Captain Pacha in the severest terms; but the latter excused himself, by declaring that he had received an order from the Grand Seignior, to put all the Beys and Mamelukes to death, and declared he was to answer with his head for the execution of the order. The English General commanded the Captain Pacha to be secured till the bodies of the Beys were found. They were brought, and interred by his direction, with great pomp. On searching for the bodies, it was discovered that Mourad-Bey, the little, was only wounded. Seven hundred individuals were to have been massacred at the same time at Cairo, by order of the Grand Seignior.

Lyons, January 27.—Yesterday, the First Consul, accompanied by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Interior, by four Counsellors of State, twenty Prefects and several General Officers, proceeded to the sitting of the Cisalpine Consulta, and pronounced, in Italian, the following discourse:

"The Cisalpine Republic, which has existed since the treaty of Campo-Formio, has already experienced many vicissitudes. The first efforts which were made to establish it, proved unsuccessful. Having since been invaded by enemies' armies, its existence did not appear probable, when the French people, for the second time, expelled, by force of arms, your enemies from your territory. Since that time, every thing has been attempted to effect your dismemberment. This has been prevented by the protection of France. You have been recognized at Luneville. Being increased by one-fifth, you now exist more powerful, more consolidated, and with greater hopes!!! Composed of six different nations, you will be united under a constitution better adapted than any other to your manners and circumstances. I have assembled you around me at Lyons, as the principal citizens of the Cisalpine Republic. You have given me

the necessary accounts, to enable me to fulfil the august task which my duty imposes on me, as First Magistrate of the French People, and as the man who has most contributed to your creation. The choice which I have made to fill the situations of your first magistrates, have been made independently of all idea of party or locality. With respect to the situation of President, I have found no person among you who is sufficiently divested of the spirit of locality, and who has rendered important services to his country sufficient to entitle him to such a situation. The proces-verbal which you have transmitted to me through your Committee of Thirty, in which are analysed with as much precision as truth, the internal and external state of your country, have interested me extremely. I adhere to your wish; I shall still continue to pay, as long as circumstances may require, the greatest attention to your affairs. Amidst the continual meditations which are required by the post I hold, all that may relate to you, and may tend to consolidate your existence and prosperity, will ever have a place amongst the most lively affections of my soul. You have now only private laws; you will henceforth require laws of a general nature. Your people have only local customs; it is necessary they should adopt national manners. Lastly, you have no army; the powers who may become your enemies have numerous forces: but you possess what will produce them; an abundant population, fertile fields, and the example which has been given to you, on every important occasion, by the first people in Europe."

Constantinople, December 13.—Lord Elgin still remains here, and probably will not proceed to Egypt, but to England direct. He is on thepoint of quitting the Hotel de France, which has been given to the embassy from that nation; this embassy in the mean time occupies two houses in the vicinity of the place, which the Porte has purchased for the purpose of building a hotel for the English embassy.

Rome, December 29.—Cardinal Rinuccini died on the 27th of December, of an attack of apoplexy. His excellency was only 58 years of age. His funeral took place on the 30th in the church of Saint Marcel, at which the sovereign Pontiff assisted, together with the Sacred College.

Berlin, January 12.—On the 28th of December, in the morning, we heard the report of artillery from the ramparts of Belgrade. It was supposed that the guns were fired on account of the interment of the Pacha. Some days before his death, the Janissaries had again refused to pay him any obedience, and had caused him to be strictly guarded. It was added, that the Janissaries had declared they would no longer acknowledge any other master than Passwan Oglou, who was shortly to come and take possession of the town. On the 27th the guard of the Pacha consisted of 200 men, two of the most determined of whom entered his chamber in the afternoon, and massacred him, having first asked him where he kept his treasure. Shortly after this event, the Janissaries ordered a proclamation to be made by sound of drum, that all the shops should be shut up, and the families remain quietly in their houses, except such men as were capable of bearing arms, who were to appear armed, before the upper fortress. The accounts above-mentioned are all that could be then collected respecting the tragical end of the Pacha. As soon as the news was known here, estafettes were dispatched to Vienna and Peterwaradin; at which latter place resides the commandant-general of our province. While waiting for superior orders, several measures of safety have been adopted; and it is expected that communication between Semlin and Belgrade will be cut off.

Manheim, January 18.—The changes which have been effected, and which are still to take place in Bavaria, relative to the Roman Catholic religion and Clergy, have induced some writers to ascertain the number of ecclesiastical foundations in this country. From their inquiries, it appears that there are at present in Bavaria ten colleges, fifty-eight abbeys and provost marshalsies, twenty-two convents of nuns, twenty-eight monasteries, four hundred and fifty-nine benefices, fifty-nine establishments of charity, two hundred and forty-eight images of saints, considered by the people as miraculous, three hundred and ninety-two brotherhoods. In the upper Palatinate there are seven abbeys, one of which, that of Waldgassen, possesses thirteen thousand square miles of territory, a thousand farms, fifteen hundred and three houses, and has under its jurisdiction eighteen thousand four hundred and sixty-nine inhabitants. The upper Palatinate likewise possesses four convents of females and six of males, fifty-four benefices, forty-two images reputed miraculous, and forty brotherhoods. The suppression which the Elector proposes to make is the more remarkable, on account of the extent of the

domains that belong to the foundations which will be suppressed, than on account of their number, which does not exceed forty.

Hague, January 24.—The French minister, Semonville, has set off for Paris, without any audience of congé, as was usual in the time of the States General, but merely with a letter addressed to the chairman of the government.—

The Stadtholder has written the following Letter to all the members of the former government:

"Having learnt that several members of the government, ministers, and other functionaries of the province of ———, who were in office on the 18th of January, 1795, as well as before the revolutions that took place after that period, entertain scruples with respect to the acceptance of places under the present circumstances, and since the introduction of the last constitution, and refuse to take employments which have a relation to the government and administration of the country; I have thought it necessary to inform you by these presents (requesting you to make what use of them you think necessary), that according to my opinion, there are no longer any motives which should restrain you from using your efforts (considering the order of things which has lately been introduced) to procure for your country as much good as it is susceptible of, and thereby to prevent its total ruin. You may accept, without any difficulty, when you think proper, employments, and sit in the colleges which are connected with the administration of affairs of the country, and take a place in the government, co-operating with the members of the present government.

"I am, with esteem, &c. &c.

"*Guillaume P. D'Orange.*

"*Oranjestein, 26th Dec.* 1801."

West-Indies. Dominica, Dec. 4.—Lacrosse, the Capt. Gen. of Guadaloupe, was, on the 1st of November last, seized by the inhabitants of that island, and banished. He was put on board a Danish vessel, with orders to land him at Copenhagen; but, the vessel being met by an English frigate, he asked the captain thereof for protection, who gave it him, and took him into Dominica, where he, together with Lascallier, the Colonial Prefect, and Coster, the Commissary of Justice, who had just arrived from France, and who had joined him at Dominica, have issued a manifesto, protesting against the acts done by the "*rebellious usurpers*" of Guadaloupe. This manifesto, which (according to the Christian Calendar) is dated on the 3d of December, 1801, states, that, on the 14th of November, the ratification of the preliminaries of peace was notified to the "*rebellious usurpers*" by an English officer, bearing a flag of truce; but that, the said usurpers gave no credit to the notification, and insulted the officer. It further states that the proscribed Captain General has in his possession a commission of Letter of Marque, dated at Guadaloupe, on the 15th of November, one day after the peace had been announced to the island; and that several British ships had been captured, and carried into the island, since the 14th of November. The manifesto concludes with an earnest exhortation, on the part of the *humane* Lacrosse, and his no less humane associates, to all governments, to forbid, under the severest penalties, the supplying of the said "*rebellious usurpers*" with arms, gunpowder, ammunition, or provisions, of any kind or sort whatsoever.

United States of America. New York, January 3.—We learn from Mr. Burroughs, who came in the schr. Fox, from Cape François, that all was tranquil there when he sailed. No official news had been received of the European peace—and no knowledge appeared to be possessed by the citizens in general of the projected French expedition to St. Domingo. Toussaint might have some private information on the subject. It is believed the sable governor's power is so considerable, that it must be continued, or the most sanguinary conflicts will occur. Toussaint's means of defence are formidable, and he will employ them to the utmost, before he will descend from his elevated station.

January 7.—We understand that the Consul General of the French Republic, for the United States, has received orders to grant *French registers to American vessels* purchased and owned by citizens of the French Republic, and navigated, if necessary, by American mariners.

January 8.—Mr. Jefferson's promised abolition of internal taxes will be popular; though it is well known that three-fourths of them are paid by the wealthy, who can well afford the contribution; and who have never complained of it. But we imagine the object in the measure lies deeper than the mere extinction of these taxes:—The impost duties will probably be *lessened* on

third by the peace in Europe; and of course the receipts of the Treasury will not be adequate to discharge all the demands thereon. To what then will Congress resort?—Certainly not to the renewal of taxes just abolished.—What then?—*The public funds.*—We must not start at this idea; but make up our mind for the event, at no very remote period. Such are our fears;—may they prove groundless!*

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

TRIAL OF GOVERNOR WALL.

The following is a brief account of this unfortunate gentleman's trial, which took place at the Old Bailey, on Wednesday the 21st ult.

The court was assembled by special commission, and the prisoner arraigned upon an indictment, which charged him with the wilful murder of Benjamin Armstrong, a serjeant under his command, at Goree, in Africa, by causing him to be flogged with a rope, in a cruel manner, on the 10th of July, 1782, in consequence of which severe chastisement, the said Armstrong had died on the 15th of the same month.

The prosecution was conducted by the Attorney-General, assisted by the Solicitor-General, and Messrs. Wood, Fielding, and Abbot. After the pleadings had been opened by Mr. Abbott, the Attorney-General entered at great length upon the charges against the prisoner. He first alluded to the length of time which had elapsed since the offence was committed: he declared that the blame of the delay rested with the prisoner alone; inasmuch as he had, when the business was in a course of trial, and he in custody, withdrawn himself from justice. He next defined the nature of the charge, and demonstrated that the prisoner must either be acquitted, or found guilty of murder. After detailing the circumstances of the case, as contained in the indictment, and explaining the rank and situation which the governor, at that time, held upon the island, he stated that the day after the punishment alluded to was inflicted upon the prisoner, he (the governor) quitted his station, and sailed for England, where he arrived in the month of August following. In March, 1784, he was apprehended under a warrant issued by order of the Privy Council, at which time most of the witnesses, who were material to prove his innocence were living, and might have been produced. Some time previous to the governor's departure from Goree, the garrison had been subjected to short allowance; and when this restriction, in point of provisions, was found necessary, it was usual to allow a pecuniary compensation equivalent to the deduction of food. The paymaster of the forces, a person of the name of Dearing, was about to quit the island with the governor, and the men, being anxious to have a settlement of their account, before he went, repaired to the house of the former, and requested the payment of what was due to them. As the whole affair in dispute rested entirely between the paymaster and the soldiers, the Attorney-General contended that the governor had no reason for interposing. When the men were passing the house of the latter, in their way to that of the paymaster, he reprimanded them, and ordered them to return, under pain of military punishment. The men obeyed; but in an hour or two afterwards, several persons, among whom was Armstrong, again assembled; when the governor, whose whole conduct during the transaction, the Attorney-General described to be "furious and full of malice," met them, and questioned Armstrong as to the cause of the tumult. Here the Attorney-General entered into a digression as to the supposition of a mutiny, on which, he understood, the governor intended to rest his defence. He said, "if there really did exist "a mutiny, *or any appearance of a mutiny* in the "garrison, which required the strong arm "of power to suppress it, a crime so enor-"mous, and so dangerous in its conse-"quences, *might supersede the ordinary mode of* "*trials*;" and, God forbid, added he, that a man should be considered as a criminal for acting with the best intention, although some excess may have attended his conduct; for the power that is given to commanding officers, in such cases of emergency, is given to them not for their own safety only, *but for the safety of us all, which cannot be preserved, unless prompt and vigorous measures be taken for the suppression of mutiny.*" He then continued

* This article is taken from the New York Evening Post, and Mr. Cobbett requests Sir Frederick Eden to see how it agrees with his supposition of an *increase* in our exports to America. Mr. Cobbett, in opposition to the opinion of Sir Frederick, stated, in his Letters to Mr. Addington, that a *diminution* of *one-fourth* would take place in our exports to that country; but the Americans themselves think the diminution upon the whole of their impost duties will be *one-third*; and if Sir Frederick doubts the fact, Mr. Cobbett is prepared to prove, that two-thirds of that whole arose from importations from Great Britain and Ireland.

to state, that in the evening of the above-mentioned day the governor ordered a long roll to be beaten, and a circle being formed by the men, in the midst of which were the governor and officers, as also a gun carriage, for the purpose of flogging, Armstrong was called out and ordered to strip, when, being tied to the gun carriage, he was chastised by blacks, brought there for the purpose. These executioners were changed at every twenty-five lashes, till the deceased sufferer had received the number of 800. The instrument used on this occasion was not a cat-o'-nine-tails, but a piece of thick rope, called inch rope. During the infliction of the punishment, the prisoner urged the blacks to shew no mercy to the man in their power, exclaiming, "cut him to "the liver, cut him to the heart, &c." and added that the sickly season was approaching, which, together with the punishment, would do for him. After receiving 800 lashes, Armstrong was conducted to the hospital, and soon after died. Previous to his dissolution he made a declaration, which, said the Attorney-General, is considered by the law of this realm as tantamount to an oath; in this he stated that he was punished without any form of trial, or without having an opportunity to say any thing in his defence. Here the Attorney-General again said he would admit, "that immediate and "urgent necessity may supersede the forms "of trial, in cases of mutiny and dangerous "insubordination," but on producing the letters sent by the prisoner to the Secretary of State, in 1782, as also the official returns, which he made of the state of the settlement, not a word was mentioned of the existence of a mutiny. He laid much stress on the circumstance of the prisoner withdrawing himself in the year 1784, when in custody of a King's Messenger, and on the proclamation, offering a reward of £200 for apprehending him; after which he called the witnesses for the prosecution, the principal of whom, Edward Evans, a common soldier (who stated himself to have been a serjeant at the time, but, as it appeared from the evidence of a person in favour of the governor, was afterwards degraded to the ranks) recapitulated all the leading facts, as stated by the Attorney-General; and all positively denied the existence of any mutiny or disturbance. The surgeon who attended the deceased, also swore, that he had no doubt but his death was occasioned by the punishment of flogging.

The prisoner being called upon for his defence, stated, that perceiving symptoms of tumult and discontent amongst the garrison previous to his embarkation, he inquired into the cause, when the men, headed by Armstrong, behaved in an outrageous manner, and threatened to break open the stores, if their demands were not complied with. He then had a conversation with the officers, who all agreed that immediate punishment was necessary to stop the mutiny. At this time, being informed that a man had broken out of custody, he went to have him secured, in which, having succeeded, he was about to follow the fellow into the prison, but the centinel at the door clapped a bayonet to his breast, and refused to let him enter; Mr. Wall struck the bayonet out of his hand, and made the centinel prisoner. It was at the proposal of Captain Lacey that the punishment was inflicted by the black linguist and his assistant. On arriving at the parade, Armstrong and others were brought forward and charged with mutiny; *he ordered them to be tried by a regimental court martial*, not having power to institute any other; and shortly after Captain Lacey reported that the prisoner had been tried, and sentenced to receive 800 lashes. Mr. Wall said that the surgeon then approved of the small rope's end, saying it was not so bad as a cat-o'-nine-tails; that none of the latter instruments could be found *, that Armstrong received the punishment with apparent indifference, and on retiring to the hospital, he became intoxicated with spirituous liquors. The reason alleged by the prisoner for withdrawing from the custody of the Messengers in the year 1784, was, that he thought it dangerous to appear at that time, as the papers were full of paragraphs against him, some of which stated, that he had blown a man away from the mouth of a cannon, &c. The governor then called on his behalf, Mrs. Lacey, widow of Capt. Lacey, who succeeded the prisoner as governor. She completely contradicted the statement of Evans, and the others, asserting that the men, to the number of 70 or 80 behaved so riotously and mutinously, that she could not think they were sober. She also stated that Governor Wall had ordered every thing to be in readiness on the parade, for the court-martial, &c. She never knew that the men were upon short allowance in Governor Wall's time, but their claims were for arrears due to them in the time of Governor Adams. Several witnesses were called to

* A witness of the name of Timms swore that he saw Armstrong and a drummer, cutting all the cat in pieces.

contradict the statements of those for the prosecution, one of whom declared that the rope produced in court was *twice the thickness* of that with which the man was flogged.

Generals Forbes and Mackenzie, Majors Phipps and Mall, the Rev. Mr. Clarke, and a number of the most respectable characters, appeared in behalf of the prisoner, and spoke of him as a man of the most benign disposition.

The Lord Chief Baron then delivered his charge, which lasted for two hours and a half, and the leading arguments of which preponderated in favour of the prisoner. The jury then retired for three quarters of an hour, and returned with a verdict of *Guilty*.*

SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

On which ever side we turn our eyes, we behold the gigantic strides, which France is making towards universal dominion. By the speech of Buonaparté to the Consulta of the Cisalpine Republic, which was delivered upon the presentation of the report of their deliberations at Lyons, it will be perceived, that, there being no one amongst the Italian republicans fit for the office, he has graciously condescended to become their president himself. Were this step taken by way of providing what the lawyers call a *collateral security*, were it a measure of personal precaution, it would discover the fears rather than the ambition of Buonaparté; but, this is not the light, in which men of reflection will view it. It is another flight of French aggrandisement, another bold stretch towards the accomplishment of the great object, of which France has never lost sight—the conquest of the civilized world. —While the taking possession of a new nation was going on, it could not be expected, that a treaty with us, whom France as yet condescends to treat as, in some sort, independent, would meet with much attention; accordingly Lord Cornwallis appears to be kept at Amiens, like a lacquey in an antichamber, waiting the return of the arbiter of nations. The treaty, in which we were told, there was "nothing left to higgle about," has already cost four months of suspense and anxiety; nor is there, at this time, the least prospect of its speedy conclusion. In the mean time France is taking all her measures in advance. She is daily and hourly strengthening her military and naval position. She rests not a moment from those labours, by which she will finally bring every nation in Europe to her feet. In matters of commerce she is uncommonly vigilant and active. Our hopes have been kept up by a persuasion, that she would want for ships and seamen; but those hopes will be turned to despair, if we look at the intelligence just received from the United States of America, where the French Consuls have already been authorized to *give French licenses to American vessels, and to allow of their being still navigated by American seamen*. This is a most political measure. It will furnish the republic with an immediate supply of 300,000 tons of cheap merchant shipping, and with 9000 excellent seamen (two-thirds of them British subjects), all of whom will now become *citizens of France!*—None of our intelligence from the West-Indies gives us the least reason to suppose, that any resistance to the French armament will be made by Toussaint, notwithstanding the only reliance of ministry (it is confidently asserted) is on that resistance. On the side of the Gulph of Mexico, Louisiana awaits the arrival of its new masters, who will now obtain the complete command of the Mississippi, and with it, of the fur trade, which has hitherto been confined to Canada. Of this subject we shall speak more minutely hereafter; in the mean time, let his Majesty's ministers remember, that another large portion of the dominions of their royal master will now require their utmost vigilance to preserve it for only a few years longer under his sway. The Sublime Porte has, we understand, refused to ratify the treaty, formed with France, at Paris, on the 9th of October last, by Citizen Talleyrand and Esseyd Aly-Effendi. This last named gentleman was,

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* The prisoner, as was stated before, was executed on the 28th of January. We have already expressed our detestation of the rabble, who, at the execution of this unfortunate gentleman, testified their joy and delight by three cheers; but, we forgot to notice, that, during the whole time, between the condemnation and the execution, the metropolis was stunned with cries of vengeance on the prisoner. Garbled accounts of the trial were published, and hawked about for sale. Verses, full of exaggeration and lies, and hideous representations of the punishment of Armstrong, were insultingly bawled in the ears, and held up to the view, of every person of rank, or of genteel appearance, that passed along the principal streets of London and Westminster. On Newgate was written these words: "the *Wall* will *come down*, if it does not *rise*."

formerly, the minister of the Porte in France. He was, it seems, kept in a state of durance, or, at least, he was so far shut out from a knowledge of what was passing, as to be ignorant of the surrender of Menou and his army, 'till several days after that event was known by the French government. As soon as the event came to their knowledge, they made with him the treaty above alluded to, in which treaty the French agree *to evacuate Egypt*, and, in return, the Sublime Porte agrees, to grant to France the same commercial and other advantages, as well in Egypt as in Turkey, as it grants, or shall grant, to any other power; and it further agrees, as the price of such promised evacuation, that the French commercial agents, and prisoners of war, of every degree, shall be set at full liberty immediately after the ratification of the preliminary articles; and again, that the old treaties between the Porte and France shall be renewed, and that the French Republic shall enjoy, throughout the whole extent of the Turkish dominions, the rights of commerce and navigation as formerly, and with the same immunities as will, in future, be enjoyed by the most favoured nations. These stipulations were, as we before observed, granted to the French as the price of *the evacuation of Egypt*; but, the Porte having now discovered, that the French were in possession of the news of the surrender of Menou and his army, and that the Turkish minister was artfully kept ignorant of that event, 'till after he had signed the treaty, refuses to ratify an instrument, which it looks upon as having been obtained by deception, a refusal, which is perfectly agreeable to reason, to justice, to all the established maxims of law, and particularly of the law of nations, in proof of which, authorities in abundance might be quoted. We hope, and we trust, that the Porte will persevere in its resistance, though we shall feel no small mortification at being compelled to acknowledge, that dignity and courage have fled from Christian nations to find shelter amongst Turks. No bargain has ever been held valid in law, if one of the parties held back from the other any essential circumstance relative thereto: for instance, if A. were to sell to B. a plantation in the island of Tobago, and it were afterwards to appear, that A. knew of that island's being restored to France, and that B. did not know of that circumstance, at the time of the sale, the sale, and all its conditions would become void, and A. would be justly chargeable with an act of fraud. The law of nations proceeds upon the same principle, and every eminent writer on that law has maintained, that engagements, made under similar circumstances, are in no wise binding on the party who makes them. The Sublime Porte, is, therefore, fully justified in its refusal to ratify the treaty of the 9th of October, and we repeat our earnest wish, that it may persevere in that refusal.

CRITICAL NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

11. *Bread; or the Poor; a Poem with notes and illustrations, by Mr. Pratt.*—It is not the *poetry*, but the *politics*, of this book that it is our duty to notice. We are bound to believe, that the poem was written by Mr. Pratt with the best intentions; but the best intentions, when not under the guidance of wisdom, are frequently productive of as much evil as the worst. The inferences which a mind, even the most unused to reason, must draw from this poem are, that all "first "establishments" were founded in "fraud "and tyranny"—indeed this is affirmed in plain terms; that the poor are oppressed by their masters; that to rebel, when they think themselves oppressed, is acting in obedience to the law of nature; that any exertion of the laws of the state to repress their licentiousness is cruelty, and that nothing should be administered to them but "lenitive and healing balm!" To the husbandman the farmer is held up as his natural enemy; as one whose riches, luxury, and pride are the sources of all the poor man's suffering: he is invidiously, and with all poetical exaggeration, placed in every light that can shew him as an object of hatred and envy, and of *plunder* also, we will boldly add, as a natural consequence from such doctrines. "*If* revolutions bring back anar-

chy," they are, it is true, deprecated; but, by a strange prostitution of words, though the changes made by them are confessed to be "perilous," their *aim* is asserted to be *grand!* Mr. Pratt must know little of the first movers of revolutions, if he does not know that, to accomplish their ends, they care not in what perils they involve their country; and still less must be known of the mass of the people if, after having told them that "first establishments" "dethroned the rightful power" of equality, he thinks they will be restrained from hostility to those establishments, or, to use another of his words "encroachments", by the slight consideration that they are "now embanked round by social order." This flimsy reasoning to the passions would be contemptible, if it were not dangerous. The *poetry* of this work we leave to more competent judges of that species of composition; but, as far as we can venture to trust our own taste and judgment, we cannot forbear to say, that, considering the *size*, and *quality* of Mr. Pratt's Bread, we think it the dearest that ever was purchased.

12. *A Vindication of the Convention, lately concluded between Great Britain and Russia, in Six Letters, addressed to* ———. The style of this pamphlet is arid in the extreme; but it is, nevertheless, written with great ability, and seems to have furnished the materials for the speech of the noble lord, whose peculiar duty it was to attend to the stipulations of the Convention. It does, indeed, contain every thing that the ingenuity of man can devise favourable to that instrument; but, those who had the good fortune to hear the speech of Lord Grenville on the subject, will be little disposed to join in the lofty encomiums, which the author of these letters has passed on the noble framer of the Convention, and will be still less inclined to justify the censure (not to say *abuse*) and the affected contempt, which he has thought proper to bestow, on all those, who regarded that convention as dangerous and dishonourable. Respecting the *rise* and *progress* of this pamphlet, an anonimous correspondent has furnished us with some facts, with which, as elucidated by the closing pages of the work, we could, were this a time for mirth, certainly give full scope for the exercise of the risible faculties of the reader.

13. *The different Effects of Peace and War on the Price of Bread-Corn. By John Duthy, Esq.*— This is a reply to the pamphlet of the Rev. Mr. Brand, in contradiction to whom, Mr. Duthy contends, that war has an inevitable tendency to augment the price of the article, which forms the subject of his inquiries. He, like his opponent, resorts to authorities, which, when taken separately, may be regarded as indubitable, but when opposed to authorities of equal weight, contribute nothing towards the termination of the dispute. Most of those, who have ascribed the high price of provisions to the war, have been actuated by acetous motives; and, if the same motives have, without cause, been attributed to this author, he has no one to thank but himself. Why did he ascribe the scarcity to the war? If true, the promulgation of the fact could do no good, and might do great harm. We, for our parts, however, are fully persuaded his opinion is erroneous, of which the *present* price of bread, both in England and France, is no very weak proof. The alliterative words, *peace* and *plenty* sound well in a song, or make a pretty transparency in the window of an ideot; but the things, which these harmonious words represent, are not always in unison. During the glorious reign of Elizabeth, there were two famines, but neither of them in time of war. There was also one, during the reign of James I. who never drew the sword. Yet the opinion, of plenty being inseparably connected with peace, certainly had no small weight in producing the peace with France. What the burden of the clamour was, in the days of Elizabeth and James we cannot now learn, a circumstance that may encourage us to hope, that our own shame, in having sold our birthright for an imaginary mess of pottage, will not to be handed down to posterity, and that our great grand-children, though they will feel the effects, will not have to blush for the cause of our baseness.

14. *The History of Helvetia; containing the Rise and Progress of the Federative Republics, to the middle of the 15th Century. By Francis Hare Naylor, Esq.*—Mr. Naylor is unfortunate. Had Mr. Planta's superior publication not appeared first, Mr. N. would have ensured deserved honours. But—he is foiled; not through his own incapacity, but through "*the unluckiness of the stars.*" Mr. P's valuable production has engrossed all our suffrages, and no man will listen to a twice told tale, where nothing new is pretended to be adduced.

STATEMENT OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BRITISH NAVAL FORCE TO THE FIRST OF FEBRUARY, 1802.

Exclusive of the HIRED ARMED VESSELS, *which are chiefly employed in protecting the Coasting Trade of* GREAT-BRITAIN.

	Line.	50's	Frig.	Sps.	Tot.
In port and fitting	24	4	58	82	168
Guard-ships	4	1	3	0	8
In the English and Irish Channels	21	0	18	29	68
On the Downs and North Sea stations	12	0	8	30	50
On the Baltic Service	0	0	0	0	0
At the West-India Islands, and on the passage thither	24	1	35	46	106
American and Newfoundland stations	0	0	2	6	8
C. of G. Hope, E. Indies, and on the passage	8	6	13	17	44
Africa and Madeira	0	0	2	2	4
On the Lisbon Station	0	0	0	0	0
Spain and Portugal without the Straits	7	0	2	3	12
In the Mediterranean	17	4	53	36	110
Hospital and Prison Ships	19	4	7	0	30
Total in Commission	136	20	201	251	608
Receiving Ships	5	0	5	1	11
Serviceable and repairing for Service	11	1	3	1	16
Extraordinary	24	3	32	80	139
Building	22	2	5	0	29
Total	198	26	246	333	803

STATE OF THE ORDINARY AT EACH PORT.

	Line.	50's	Frig.	Sps.	Tot.
Portsmouth	14	0	11	28	53
Plymouth	16	0	8	16	40
Chatham	8	2	1	0	11
Sheerness	2	1	9	21	33
River	0	1	11	17	29
Total	40	4	40	82	166

GENERAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE BRITISH ARMY, FEBRUARY 1, 1802.

	Regulars: Cav.	Regulars: Inf.	Fe. Inf.	Militia	Tot. Ba.	Inv. Co
England and Wales	23	29	2	75	129	40
North Britain	2	—	4	11	17	6
Ireland	7	12	29	—	48	6
Jersey, Guernsey, &c.	—	4	2	—	6	20
Gibraltar	—	7	4	—	11	—
Minorca and Malta	—	11	—	—	11	—
Egypt and on the passage from it	3	20	1	—	24	—
Canada, Nova Scotia, &c.	—	5	2	—	7	—
West-Indies	1	35	—	—	36	—
Cape of Good Hope, Goree, &c.	1	7	—	—	8*	—
East-Indies, and on the passage thither	4	19	—	—	23	—
Total	41	149	44	86	320‡	72

* The company's troops exclusive —‡ Exclusive of artillery and engineers at home and abroad, independent companies, recruiting corps, volunteers, &c.

PROMOTIONS.

Nicholas Smith, Esq. Master in Chancery, is to be the Accomptant-General in Chancery, in the room of Mr. Walker, deceased.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

Birth.—On the 22th ult. in Harley Street, the Lady of William Gore Langton, Esq. M. P. for the County of Somerset, of a Son.

Marriages.—At Edinburgh, on the 20th ult. Alexander Macdonell, Esq. of Glengary, to Miss Rebecca Forbes, daughter of Sir William Forbes, of Pitsligo, Bart.—On the 23d ult. at Exeter, Edmund Pusey Lyon, Esq. Barrister at Law, to Miss Duntze, sister to Sir John Duntze, Bart.

Deaths.—Tuesday the 26th ult. at Mr. Coute's house in Piccadilly, the infant and only Son of the Earl of Guildford.—On the 24th ult. in the 79th year of her age, in consequence of a fright occasioned by her clothes accidentally taking fire about a fortnight since, Lady Jane Courtenay, aunt to the Marquis of Bute.—On the 27th ult. at his Lordship's house in Savile Row, the infant Son of the Right Honourable Lord G. H. Cavendish.—On Thursday last, Sir Henry W. Sheridan, Bart. of Elford House, Kent.—Same day, at Fulbeck, Miss Elizabeth Fane, second daughter of the Honourable Henry Fane.—On Tuesday, at the house of Lord Auckland, in Palace Yard, the infant Son of Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne.—Saturday, at his house in Stafford Place, Pimlico, J. Brenton, Esq. Rear Admiral in his Majesty's Navy.—On Sunday, at his house, in Great George Street, Westminster, the Right Honourable Lady Lucy Meyrick, widow of the late Pierce Meyrick, of Bodorgan, Esq. daughter of the late and sister of the last Earl of Londonderry.—On Wednesday the 27th ult. at Dublin, the Earl of Clare, the Lord High Chancellor of Ireland. His Lordship transacted public business on the Tuesday, the day before his death.

PRICE OF STOCKS.

ENGLISH three per cent. consols.—Monday, Feb. 1, 68⅝ ½ ¼ ⅜.—Tues. 2d, shut.—Wednes. 3d, 68⅝ ½ ¼.—Thursday 4th, 68⅞.—Friday 5th, 68½.——AMERICAN STOCKS.—Eight per cent. 115½.——FRENCH STOCKS.—Tiers Consolidé 57.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

HAMBURGH 32 3 2 ½ us.——ALTONA 32 3 2 ½ us.——BILBOA 38 ½.——CADIZ 38.——MADRID 39.——LEGHORN 52 ½.——NAPLES 44 ½.——GENOA 49.——VENICE 36 ½.——LISBON 67 ½.——OPORTO 68 ½.——DUBLIN 12.

PRICES CURRENT IN LONDON.

CORN.—Foreign White Wheat 70 to 82s. per quarter. Foreign Red ditto 64 to 70s. Inferior ditto 45 to 60s. English Wheat 70 to 82s. Rye 38 to 42s. Barley 28 to 42s. Malt 45 to 55s. Oats 18 to 26s. Pease 36 to 44s. Beans 38 to 48s. First Flour 60 to 65s. Second ditto 56 to 60s. BREAD 1s. the quartern loaf.

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